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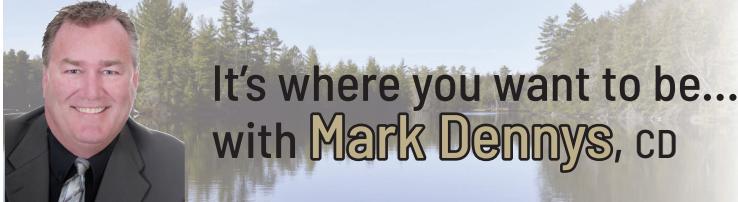
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'I believe that this youth hub will save lives'

Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub officially opens its doors amid fanfare

JENN WATT
Editor

The importance of mental health and addictions services and a dedicated support system for Haliburton County's youth was brought into stark relief at the official opening ceremony for the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub on Thursday as service providers, youth advocates, community organizers and users of the space told their stories.

A web of services, lacking coordination, with gaps in coverage have left some youth and young adults feeling unsupported during times of crisis.

"I remember wait lists and referrals and hostile rooms and hearing the same questions over and over again from different people," said Joey Varga, 19, a member of the youth hub's steering committee. "I remember white walls and fluorescent

see YOUTH page 2

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Audience energized by Lemon Bucket Orkestra

Lemon Bucket Orkestra on stage on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. The energetic band not only performed, but also engaged with the audience, teaching dance moves and playing on the dance floor, surrounded by attendees. See more photos on page 19. /DARREN LUM Staff

More strike days as ETFO protests continue

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario plans to continue its job action this week that will see ETFO members in Haliburton County on picket lines on Tuesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday Feb. 13, as the teachers' union and Ford government continue to be unable to settle a contract.

On Feb. 11, all 83,000 ETFO members throughout the province were set to strike and on Feb. 13, ETFO members within the Trillium Lakelands District School Board were scheduled to partake in a one-day strike. Rotating one-day strikes, with different school boards involved throughout the province each day of the week, have been ongoing since Jan. 22. For the past couple of weeks, another day of the week has been dedicated to a full, province-wide strike by ETFO members. Ele-

mentary students in the county missed two days of school last week, as they were scheduled to this week as well.

The tone between the union and the government is becoming increasingly heated, and ETFO president Sam Hammond said in a release last week that the union and the province had been close to reaching a deal on Friday, Jan. 31.

see REPORT page 9

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MPP Laurie Scott, left, Health Minister and Deputy Premier Christine Elliott, and Point in Time executive director Marg Cox applaud the band The Bones of Jim Jones during a tour of the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub on Thursday, Feb. 6 in Haliburton. The hub is planned to be a safe space for youth and young adults to socialize with others and access services and supports for mental health and addictions, primary care and sexual health, employment, income and housing with other responsive services as needs rise./DARREN LUM Staff

Youth hub funding to continue

from page 1

lights. I remember feeling like there wasn't anything for me unless there was an emergency."

Joey and her mother Talitha told the large audience assembled at the Haliburton Legion about their family's experiences with the mental health system and about the struggles of Talitha's son and Joey's older brother, Morgan, who died by suicide in 2017.

"In a system that can make young people feel neglected until they are in a high-risk crisis situation, many of us fall through the cracks. My brother Morgan was one of those people," Joey said. "Morgan was experiencing the symptoms of schizophrenia and was in an environment that didn't make him feel safe or comfortable. His only option in the end was the hospital and that wasn't enough. On Aug. 3, 2017, Morgan took his own life. He was 19 years old.

"It felt like an explosion that caused the ground to disintegrate underneath my and my family's feet and we needed urgent help. Morgan saw problems in the world and wanted to change them. He needed things to change and after we lost him, my family and I more than ever felt that we needed to do something that would make a difference in the system."

The family had just moved to the Haliburton Highlands in 2016 and Talitha said she was struggling following the upheaval of divorce and a move from Saskatchewan.

Following hospitalization, it was difficult to find after-care for Morgan, she said, describing a system of disconnected services that didn't have anything geared to young adults 19 and older.

"It felt like Morgan didn't have an umbrella or a safety

Correction

The story "Extracurriculars, sports left in state of limbo," in the *Haliburton Echo* Feb. 4, stated that the Trillium Lakelands District School Board decided during its Jan. 28 meeting to cancel extracurricular activities during school hours. In fact, the TLDSB trustees were told of the decision, which was made by senior administration, at their Jan. 28 meeting. The *Echo* apologizes for the error.

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net and neither did I. And on Aug. 3, 2017, I lost my beautiful boy and our world fell out from under us," she said.

After Morgan's death, members of the family put their efforts into improving services for youth in Haliburton County, joining with a group of service providers including Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services in applying for youth wellness hub funding from the provincial government.

Over the last two years, grant funding has arrived from various places – including the provincial Ministry of Health – and community members have rallied to secure the space at the former Lighthouse Church on Dysart Avenue in Haliburton, fundraise for and do renovations, arrange for staffing and begin programming.

Talitha said when she goes to the youth hub today, she can imagine how Morgan could have benefited from its services. She could imagine him connecting with other young people, playing video games and eating snacks, learning to play an instrument and building trust with the staff, who offer access to mental health counselling and employment services.

"It is too late for Morgan, but I believe that this youth hub will save lives," she said.

Funding has come from several sources, with a large infusion from the Ministry of Health, which contributed more than \$500,000 over three years with an additional \$670,000 coming from the Youth Wellness Hub Ontario project at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. An additional \$68,000 has come from donations and grants.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott attended the opening along with Minister of Infrastructure and local MPP Laurie Scott.

Elliott said that the province's Conservative government had identified mental health and addictions as a priority and was on the cusp of releasing an action plan to make sure those who need help receive it, no matter where in Ontario they live.

Responding to a question from the *Echo*, Elliott confirmed that funding will be ongoing for the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

"There is no end date [to funding]," she said. "This is a see HUB page 3

Hub to offer positive, progressive space for youth

from page 2

valuable resource in this community that is obviously quite clearly needed, that the community wants. There's been so much community involvement in this. It's going to continue."

The audience erupted in cheers and applause.

Elliott said that she has heard from Ontarians that better access to services needs to be made available.

"Ontarians are telling us that they need access to reliable, standardized, high quality mental health services when and where they need them," she said. "They're telling us they need to expand and provide improved access to services and to provide innovative solutions such as the one that we're seeing here in Haliburton."

Scott said she has watched the progress in the community to develop the hub and congratulated Marg Cox, executive director of Point in Time and one of the key organizers of the initiative.

"Marg ... I can't tell you how proud I am of our whole community and what you've done today," she said.

Other speakers included Dylan Robichaud from MP Jamie Schmale's office, Joanna Henderson of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO Carolyn Plummer and Marg Cox, who acted as MC. A group of young people performed a YMCA-inspired song titled YWHO, which stands for Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario.

Another speaker, who identified herself



Joey Varga speaks at the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub's grand opening event on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. Varga is a member of the hub's steering committee and she told the audience about why better support was needed for the county's youth. The ceremony was held at the Legion due to space constraints. The youth hub is located at 12 Dysart Ave. in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

as a local mother, pointed out the barriers youth face today, especially those living in a rural area like Haliburton.

"My children don't have the luxury of being able to take public transportation to and from activities and part-time jobs. ... This can be profoundly isolating, especially for teens. They are unable to access medical services as easily as children in urban areas due to the lack of available resources and their inability to access

the limited resources available," she said, pointing out that walk-in clinics aren't open as frequently on evenings and weekends.

She said her family's doctor is a two-hour drive away, but being added to the waiting list in Haliburton would require her and her family members to de-roster from their current physician.

She pointed out that internet access isn't available to all youth to the same

extent, meaning they have to find computers elsewhere to do their homework or look for jobs.

"The challenges I've mentioned have presented themselves most acutely in the lives of my family," she said. "In the span of two years, two of my children made convincing attempts at suicide. I can say with certainty and with gratitude and conviction that without Point in Time and the caring and dedicated staff we met along our journey, my children would not have come out the other side of the horror and despair of their mental illnesses."

She said that resources have been made available and counsellors have kept in contact with the family to ensure the children succeed. She said she has a child who uses the youth hub "almost every day it's open" and has found a non-judgmental atmosphere with kind staff, food to eat, internet access and other youth to socialize with. The woman said she was pleased that sexual health and addictions counselling is also available, for young people who do not feel comfortable going to their parents or caregivers with their concerns.

"This positive, productive and progressive space is on the verge of positively impacting a generation of rural youth that may have otherwise fallen through the cracks," she said.

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub is located at 12 Dysart Ave., Haliburton and can be found online at pointintime.ca/youth/haliburton-youth-wellness-hub, on Instagram at HaliCountyYouthHub, Facebook at Facebook.com/HaliCountyYouthHub or by calling 705-457-5345.

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Flowers, sculptures, festivals funded in 2020 BIA budget

JENN WATT

Editor

In the year to come, the Haliburton Village Business Improvement Area, or BIA, will continue putting its money into the initiatives designed to liven the downtown: flower baskets, sculptures, winter decorations, Colourfest, the Santa Claus Parade and Frost Fest, among others.

At its annual general meeting on Feb. 6, the membership voted to pass the nearly \$58,000 budget, which includes modest increases over last year's \$55,500 budget.

The BIA funds its activities through a levy applied to the businesses in the downtown, which this year was raised by about two per cent. The organization has also chosen to use its reserve funds again this year, with about \$7,800 helping to pay for 2020 initiatives.

Barbara Swannell, treasurer for Dysart et al, reminded the BIA on Thursday that reserves have been decreasing in recent years and will be gone, if they continue to be drawn upon.

"At the end of 2018, the BIA had a reserve of just under \$26,000, so the final results for 2019 indicate that there's going to be a draw of roughly almost \$7,000 on that [reserve], so that will bring it down to roughly about \$19,000 and then the 2020 budget again is proposing a draw on that reserve, so proposed 2020, you're looking at a closing reserve balance of about \$10,000," she said.

Chair Luke Schell asked Swannell if she had a recommendation on use of reserves. "It looks like you're slowly drawing on the reserve and you've got some key initiatives here from what I can see, so just be aware at some point if you continue with the same trend of drawing anywhere between \$7,000 to \$8,000, by the end of 2021, you will not have any more reserves," she said, adding it was healthy to keep some reserves on-hand in case something comes up.

The BIA has budgeted to spend about \$7,000 on administration in 2020; \$2,000 on Colourfest; \$2,000 on conferences and education; \$5,500 on town decorations; \$3,250 on downtown flags; \$9,000 on flowers including maintaining them; \$4,500 on sculptures; \$15,000 on promotions including various local shopping initiatives; \$5,000 on the Santa Claus Parade and \$2,000 for sidewalk cleanup.

Mayor gives update

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts attended the AGM and gave members a preview of work being done to improve the downtown, starting with the visitors' centre that will be built at the entrance to Head Lake Park, offering tourism information and public washrooms.

"Public washrooms are absolutely a priority," she said, saying they would benefit people attending events in the park as well as downtown shoppers.

She also highlighted the master plan for Head Lake Park, which will be reviewed by stakeholders who participated in the initial consultation.

"That's sort of like having that big dream and that goal that you go to. It might take 10 years, it might take 20 years. There's not really a timeline," she said.

The plan will address operations of the park, including drainage, walkways, and accessibility.



Kathy Stouffer, owner of Master's Bookstore in Haliburton, was given the BIA VIP award by vice-chair David Zilstra, left, and chair Luke Schell at the organization's AGM on Feb. 6 at Dysart et al council chambers. Master's Bookstore has been in business for 40 years. /JENN WATT Staff

Bookstore owner named VIP

Kathy Stouffer, owner of Master's Bookstore on Highland Street, was chosen as this year's BIA VIP, and given a plaque at Thursday's meeting. The bookstore is celebrating 40 years in business and chair Luke Schell praised Stouffer for persevering through a difficult time in the publishing industry.

"We just appreciate people like you and what you have done for this community. You have a destination store in the middle of our town that people come here to go to," he said, calling Master's Bookstore an "incredible bookstore, run by an incredible lady."

Stouffer thanked the BIA for the honour and thanked her customers who help generate business by sharing their reviews of the store.

County residents charged with drug trafficking

Sixteen people, 13 of them residents of Haliburton County, are facing numerous charges after a nine-month investigation targeting individuals responsible for trafficking cocaine into the Haliburton area from the Greater Toronto Area.

On Jan. 30, Ontario Provincial Police executed six warrants in the Haliburton County area, Oshawa and Scarborough with the assistance of the tactics and rescue unit, aviation unit, canine unit, emergency response team, and both the Haliburton Highlands detachment and City of Kawartha Lakes detachment of the OPP.

The "Project Imperial" investigation, led by the OPP Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau and central region community street crime units, led police to identify a significant property crime network directly linked to the accused. As a result, police have recovered stolen property taken from both residential and commercial proper-

ties in Haliburton County.

"During the course of the investigation, OCEB and CSCU combined to seize 400 grams of cocaine/crack cocaine, two grams of fentanyl, nine long guns, two black powder revolver firearms, one revolver firearm, one replica handgun and more than \$12,000 in Canadian currency," reads a police report issued Feb. 4. "Police were able to recover stolen property, including generators, power tools and solar panels."

In total, 16 people were charged with 82 offences, charged under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and the Criminal Code of Canada after the conclusion of the drug trafficking investigation.

According to the police, several of the accused were held in custody upon arrest and are expected to appear at an Ontario Court of Justice in various locations on various dates. The investigation is ongoing.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Forest school grows roots

FOREST SCHOOL, an outdoor education delivery model, is frequently traced back to Denmark in the 1950s, as a formal model since the early 1990s and in Canada since the early 2000s with the Child & Nature Alliance also acknowledging "that Indigenous people here have been teaching and learning on, with, and from this land for millennia."

Learning outdoors isn't new, but Forest Schools in Haliburton County are, with two – At Last Forest Schools to be opened at Abbey Gardens, and YMCA Wanakita Forest School to be opened at Camp Wanakita – looking to welcome students this fall 2020.

Both organizations are planning typical Forest School offerings: small groups of about six kids of various ages together with one adult instructor, for one to two days a week. The majority of the day is play-based and inquiry-led, spent outside regardless of the season in which students hike, explore, and learn skills including animal tracking and plant and tree identification based on what they find or have questions about during the day. At Last Forest Schools will run throughout each season of the school year, while YMCA Wanakita will run for seven-week sessions in the spring and fall, with a separate March Break offering. Both schools will open for PA days as well. The programs are an option for home schooled kids, as well as public school students who would divide their time between traditional school and Forest School.

Evidence-based research has shown that potential benefits of Forest School include improved confidence, concentration, physical stamina and skills, sensory development, as well as reduced stress. Students who might have behavioural challenges or find transitions difficult at traditional school often experience success at For-

est School, said Debbie Ray-Val, whose growing number of At Last Forest Schools have been popular since opening in Owen Sound in 2016, which she said leads to better success upon their return to traditional school.

Additionally, both At Last Forest Schools and YMCA Wanakita Forest School spokespeople discussed how students can learn to manage risks through play, so that instead of being told not to do something – climb a boulder, climb a tree, jump in a puddle – because of a standard one-size-fits-all rule in place, the students learn to think individually about their abilities and actions, a skill that translates to other areas of their lives.

Advocates for Forest School say students also become fast and longterm stewards of the land, appreciating the space they return to regularly, and understanding their effect on nature.

In Haliburton County, where our kids are surrounded by forests and have access to naturally diverse spaces such as Abbey Gardens and YMCA Wanakita, Forest School could offer additional opportunities to get outside.

For more information about At Last Forest Schools – Haliburton at Abbey Gardens, an info session will be held on the At Last Forest Schools – Haliburton Facebook page on Feb. 13 and May 20 at 8:30 p.m., while an in-person parent information session will be held at Abbey Gardens on April 5 at 1 p.m. A story about the school is online at HaliburtonEcho.ca.

For more information about Forest School at YMCA Wanakita, see Page 8 in this week's Echo, or visit YMCA Wanakita online at <https://www.ymcahbb.ca/Wanakita/Camp-Programs/Year-Round-Camp/Forest-School> or contact Sarah Bell at sarah.bell@ymcahbb.ca or at 1-800-387-5081 x.2245.



**sue
tiffin**

Editorial



Texture contrasts

by Darren Lum

Yell peace!

IN YOGA and meditation we often talk about working with the two dimensions of our being, "the form and the formless." Eckhart Tolle talks about this at length in his teachings. "The form" refers to our muscles, bones, organs, tendons, ligaments, blood.

The physical dimension of our being that we can see or touch and feel and move. Of course we want to have a strong, resilient "form" that can move and do the things we want to do in our lives, and also recover when we get injured or sick. In yoga the postures challenge "the form" into many different shapes to build power, mobility, balance and awareness. We want a strong healthy "form" our entire lives. And then there is "the formless." This refers to our deep, inner spaciousness, inner aliveness. Eckhart Tolle calls it our essence. The part of ourselves that is pure energy and pure vibration.

The idea is that we are essentially love at the deepest dimension of our being. We can't see or touch this dimension, but we can feel it and sense it. And in the practices of yoga and meditation we are strengthening our connection to this aspect of our being also. It is the quiet centre of our inner universe. What I find interesting is that there are so many ways to connect with these two dimensions of our being.

On the weekend, I attended the Lemon Bucket Orkestra concert and dance. The gifted group of performers had people of all ages dancing together doing simple circle and part-

ner dances in a pre-concert workshop and during their show. People participated at whatever level they felt comfortable. At all times I bet there were a hundred people dancing. The joy was palpable. It only increased as the evening progressed.

At the start of the second half the band called Amy Brohm up onto the stage because it was her birthday. He also called the audience to come in nice and close around her. He then proceeded to explain that in his culture they sing what they hope for

the person for the rest of their life on their birthday. "We hope for you love, joy, peace, courage, strength, friendship, beauty, laughter" and more. His words went straight into the heart of everyone. And then the band, who stood facing Amy, sang in beautiful harmony a birthday song of hope. After all the dancing and moving, the quiet honouring and reverence for Amy that was expressed was beautiful. I think we were all connected to our

"form and formless" in that moment.

The evening ended with everyone dancing and singing their hearts out and then a final blessing where everyone stood shoulder to shoulder and the band sang a song that translated into "run out into the streets and yell peace."

It's in these moments when we feel so alive, and connected to each other that there is strength and passion. It comes from a connection to our form, and our formless. And the world needs both parts of us to be strong.

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points of view

Slingshots then and now

THE OTHER day we had an unusual incident which, I'll admit, was not something that happens in your average household.

It began when I dropped 135 ball bearings on the dining room floor. I knew there were 135 because I had just counted them. You see, like most responsible slingshot owners, I make it a point to know exactly how much ammo I have at any given time. That way, if I'm ever at a sophisticated dinner party, I always have an ice breaker that people can relate to.

OK, let's get back to the spill.

If it were anyone else but Jenn, I would not have warned the person that they were about to walk onto a laminate floor festooned with 135 ball bearings. But Jenn had previously told me she does not have any desire to star in a viral video, no matter how many followers it would get me on Instagram.

So I warned her about the spill.

Now for the unusual part.

Jenn asked me why I needed so much slingshot ammunition.

"So much?" I said. "Actually, I'm running low."

"Why would anyone need that many ball bearings?" she said, as she surveyed the floor.

As most slingshot aficionados know, there are many really good reasons. But let's forget the obvious one – the tactical advantages in a zombie apocalypse – for a moment.

Ball bearings have many other great uses. For instance, if your parents forget you at home and you are forced to defend the house against two bungling burglars. In that case, I think we can all agree 135 ball bearings is hardly enough.

And let's not forget, the judicious use of a few hundred ball bearings

is also a great way to discourage people with geiger counters from finding your buried treasure. Also, they can ensure you stay competitive in any race or hurtling event.

But mostly, you need lots of ball bearings if you ever decide to get serious and master the lost art of slingshot shooting. This was very common when I was a kid. But now, as far as I know, me and a handful of my friends are the only ones keeping the tradition alive. And this says volumes about how our educational system has failed us.

For, by making everyone else too "smart" and/or "mature" to fiddle around with slingshots, they have practically made plinking pop cans a thing of past. Mark my words, this is something we might one day regret should tiny aliens in pop-can sized spaceships ever decide to invade us. Or, God forbid, if an unsuspecting loved one is accidentally about to drink an American beer. At least those of us who can hit pop cans at 30 feet will be able to say we tried to save them.

Education and maturity aside, I'm not sure why slingshots fell out of fashion. All I know is when I was young, almost everyone had them and at least one broken window.

But did anyone get hurt?

Yes, but only because some people weren't very good at tying their bands to the forks. But we learned a valuable lesson from that too. Namely, never let a guy with an eye patch tie your slingshot bands to the forks.

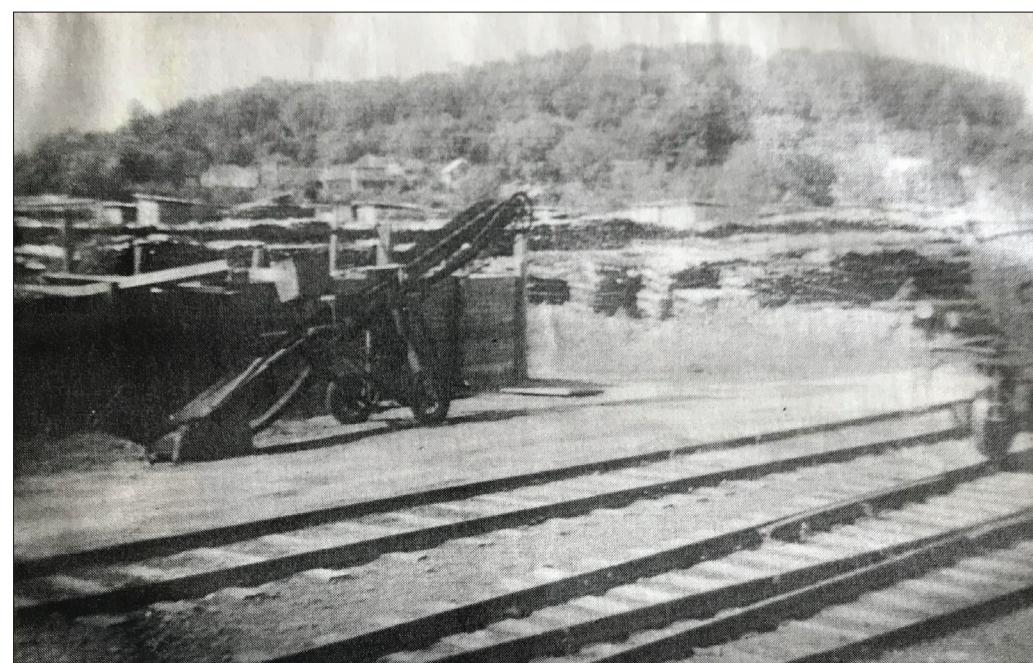
Getting hit by a ball bearing, marble or pebble launched from a slingshot was almost unheard of back then, however. True, this was mostly due to the fact that we had become remarkably adept at dodging lawn darts, fire crackers, wayward Frisbees, boomerangs, snowballs and BBs. But, it also had a lot to do with the fact that we did not aim at others because kids of my generation quickly learned that the sound of a ball bearing hitting a tin can was way more pleasing than the sound of your dad hitting you.

Alas, those were simpler times and that wonderful childhood rite of passage is now long gone. I guess somewhere along the way, we just lost our bearings.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past takes us back to the year 1957 when lumbering was the main industry in Haliburton County. This was taken at the present Head Lake Park when that area was the scene of a lot of activity with the sawmill in operation. The train came into Haliburton in those days and lumber was piled into the boxcars to be transported to other centres. Notice the cordwood piled row after row.

letters to the editor

Traffic count must include summer season

To the Editor,

I am writing to express concern of the municipality's traffic assessment to guide council in future decisions. It is noted, in the story "Dysart budget includes 3.65% tax increase," Feb. 4 *Haliburton Echo* that "counts will be completed prior to the summer season." As a cottage owner who pays a large sum of taxes for a seasonal lake-front residence I am being ignored. As per population growth in summer so goes traffic growth. This traffic count must include the summer season. Seasonal owners pay the majority of residen-

tial taxes in this municipality. To all politicians that ran in the last election, road maintenance/lack thereof, was the issue for us. We are having our hard surface roads reduced to gravel, a reduction in level of service paired with higher taxes. If we are not receiving a reasonable level of municipal service which for us is our roads and our disproportionate contribution of taxes continues, this will become a major divisive issue for this municipality.

Patrick Berne
Haliburton Lake



75 years

The Haliburton Legion Ladies Auxiliary celebrated their 75th charter anniversary at the Haliburton Legion's Wednesday Night Bingo on Feb. 5. In 1945, 30 ladies received their charter and the auxiliary has had a strong presence in our community ever since. The Ladies Auxiliary wanted to thank the bingo players for all their support for the Ladies Auxiliary Tuck Shop. If you would like to be a part of this amazing organization to help serve your community and have fun too then give president Pat Wright a call at 705-457-2828. /Submitted by Linda Heeps

YMCA Wanakita branches out to offer Forest School

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

YMCA Wanakita, a space known to some local kids for its strawberry social, Breakfast with Santa event, or day and summer camps is about to become much more familiar. The camp has announced a Forest School program, intended to open this fall.

Sarah Bell, family camp director of YMCA Wanakita, said she has been researching Forest School over the past two years, and is excited to offer a program with more environmental focus to local kids.

"A lot of our clients that we serve at Wanakita are from afar, they're from the city, they're from Ottawa and Toronto and Hamilton," said Bell. "They come here once, they do some recreation and then they leave. But Forest School will be really great because it would provide local kids and local families who don't often get to see camp with what Forest School [philosophy] sort of terms as 'regular and repeated access to the same natural space.' So these kids would come for a certain number of weeks, one or two days a week, and they'd come to the same place, so they'd get a really great connection with nature and more sort of ecological and environmental connection than what we've been offering."

Wanakita is offering Forest School programming as a seven-week program, open one to two days a week, to be held in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. The programming will also be offered this year in a pilot program held during the upcoming March Break (March 16 to March 21), and on the remaining PA days this school year, May 1 and June 5, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bell said the programming is geared both toward kids who already attend public school, or to homeschooled kids in the area who might want more experience being outdoors.

Forest School is "[r]eally, generally unstructured," she said. "They're not coming to have a specific lesson about mushrooms or habitats."

The Wanakita program information online notes it is inquiry-based, following the children's leads throughout outdoor time, trail hiking, playing in the woods and learning and developing new skills such as animal tracking, plant and tree identification, shelter building, ecology, fire building, outdoor cooking, nature games, storytelling, reading, writing, outdoor math, crafts and drama.

"It's also very play-based, sometimes we'll just go out and play for an hour, and if they find cool stuff we'll talk about it,"



YMCA Wanakita has announced the opening of a Forest School this upcoming fall and spring, with a pilot program being offered over March Break and on the two remaining PA days in this school year./Photo by Sarah Bell

“

They're really developing their sense of belonging to the place that they're at.

— Sarah Bell,
YMCA Wanakita Forest School

said Bell. "If they just want to be active and not actually learning about stuff, that's cool too, but we'll also have an indoor space for whenever there's rainy weather or part of the day when we want to do crafts and learning and reading and a bit of writing. It's not specifically school in that we have specific outcomes. We're not giving reports or marks or anything like that, but [there's] definitely lots of learning happening and in different ways than they'd be getting at regular school."

As Bell was researching, she looked into the benefits of Forest School, an outdoor education approach that originated in Scandinavia in the 1950s and first came to Canada in the early 2000s.

"What are the actual benefits?" said



Educators at Forest School follows the lead of children's interest during outdoor time, trail hiking, playing in the woods and learning and developing new skills. /Submitted photo

Bell. "They're just playing outside or climbing trees or lifting over rocks or whatever. But there's all kind of scientific evidence – people see this all over Facebook about how good being outside is for you. [The list of benefits includes] increased confidence, increased problem-solving skills, managing risks so whether you're climbing a big boulder and learning exactly what your body can do, those risk management skills will help in other types of risk management whether that's something physical or something more mental in the future."

Bell said research shows that Forest School can also lead to increased academic skills as kids have more experiences and more immersion in outdoor play.

"There's lots of people who seem to be really interested," she said. "I think parents are interested, some of them because they're already connected to nature and they think, oh, what a great thing, my kids could be outside more, and others because they don't know how to be outside with their kids or they don't like to be outside and they want their kids to be. I think there's a lot of factors going into it."

Bell will be one of the instructors of the program, which intends to be open to two

groups of six kids who vary in age so that kids can learn from each other, alongside one adult instructor per group. Besides her experience at Wanakita over the past decade, Bell is also about to complete a Forest School practitioner course and is an Ontario certified teacher.

"I think probably just getting kids outside and actually connecting to nature and having that repeated connection," said Bell of her love for the concept. "They're really developing their sense of belonging to the place that they're at. When they are in play-based immersion experiences, they develop a sense of stewardship to the land and they want to take care of it, which develops better citizens for the future. Just the general connection to nature is something I really value in kids. I also just love teaching in nature and I don't get to do that enough."

For more information about Forest School at YMCA Wanakita visit <https://www.ymcahbb.ca/Wanakita/Camp-Programs/Year-Round-Camp/Forest-School> or contact Sarah Bell at sarah.bell@ymcahbb.ca or 1-800-387-5081.

(A story about At Last Forest School, opening at Abbey Gardens this fall, ran in last week's Echo and is also available at haliburtonecho.ca)

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Rails End board president Marguerite Easby gives remarks during the opening of the well-attended reception for Water, this year's members' show.

Report cards, extracurriculars affected at elementary schools

from page 1

"ETFO, school board associations and the government were close to an agreement on Friday that would have been good for students, educators and public education. It would have ensured stability in public elementary schools this week," Hammond said in the release. "Then, late that day, the government's negotiators changed course and tabled impossible options they knew ETFO could not accept."

"I want to set the record straight," continued Hammond. "Unlike the Minister of Education, I was at the bargaining table last week so I know what was discussed. Despite what Minister [Stephen] Lecce is claiming, salary was not addressed during those negotiations, and government negotiators did not sign a letter of commitment to maintain the kindergarten model."

Priorities for ETFO include maintaining the current kindergarten program, smaller class sizes, resources for students with special needs, as well as teacher compensation.

"We have to question what the government's motivation was when it abruptly changed its tactics at the last minute. Rather than 'keep kids in the classroom,' which Education Minister Stephen Lecce says is his goal, this government is deliberately creating chaos in our education system," Hammond said.

Last week, Lecce fired back, telling the media that ETFO is adding "new items to their priority list," including that the hiring of teachers continues to be based on seniority ranking within the union.

With regard to the hiring process, Hammond said in the release: "An agreement was also within reach on maintaining a long-standing regulation that ensures fair and transparent hiring processes for teachers. Government negotiators then introduced demands for major concessions around fair hiring."

Along with continuing strike action, elementary school students are not receiving report cards, and field trips and extracurricular activities have been cancelled.

Daycares, after-school programs and any community activities occurring at elementary schools are not affected by the strike, but all bus transportation for elementary school students on Feb. 11 and Feb. 13 was to be cancelled if schools were not open to students due to striking.

At the secondary level, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation was planning to continue its job action with a one-day strike on Thursday, Feb. 13 in certain school boards throughout the province, which doesn't appear to affect TLDSB. Secondary students are receiving report cards, but without comments, as the OSSTF also seeks to ratify a new agreement with the province. Within the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, the board has decided to cancel all extracurricular activities at secondary schools that take place within school hours, in response to OSSTF job action that does not allow teachers to cover for absent teachers. That decision has also put athletics at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in jeopardy for the remainder of the school year, since the Kawartha District Athletic Association has requested that member schools agree to and finalize season and playoff schedules. The KDAA has initially set a deadline of Jan. 31 for responses, but has agreed to extend it.



Water inspires at members' show

Water is the title of this year's members' show at the Rails End Gallery, and the gallery is bathed in blue with works ranging from paintings to pottery to textiles and more. The exhibit runs until April 4. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



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Rotaract Club to give young people chance to network and help community

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Young adults in the Highlands are getting an opportunity to connect with one another and engage with the community through the newly formed Rotaract Club.

The Rotaract Club is a service club that will organize activities and service projects and is open to young people 18 and older to exchange ideas with each other, develop leadership and professional skills, and work collaboratively to benefit the Highlands.

Members of Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world often work together in serving their respective communities in 159 countries.

The club came from a partnership between the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce following months of discussions to transition the chamber's Haliburton Highlands Young Professionals Network, or YPN, to a Rotaract Club, joining more than 20,000 other clubs around the world.

The Rotaract committee includes president Rebecca Anderson, vice-president Scott Walling and member Melissa Tong, who was a YPN member. They've held a few meetings and are inviting the public to an upcoming free information night on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Haliburton campus of Fleming College at 297 College Dr.

With Tong's YPN experience and her role as the eldest of the three, she is helping Rotaract make the transition. She said the club will help young adults to make important social and professional connections.

"If you don't have a lot of money and you don't have a lot of connections already it's really hard to find something to do to keep people here, so I think Rotaract is a really great asset to the community. In a way it will provide a community for those young people," she said.

When she first moved to the Highlands in 2001 as a 20-year-old, Tong had plenty of opportunity to socialize with colleagues at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, where she worked. However, not all young people will be at work with other young adults.

"I see the beauty of the community and I think that there's so much going on and so much that this commu-

nity has to offer, but if you don't know where to look and who to ask it'll be hard to find and so I think this will be a really good asset for that because I love living here and I think it's a great community and I'd like to expose that and keeping the younger generation involved ... we need young people to drive the community, right?" she said.

"A lot of people do leave the community because they feel disconnected. They don't feel like they fit in anywhere. It is hard to find that piece if there is nowhere to go and meet new people," Tong said.

Ideas for the club, which meets bi-weekly, include guest speakers, fun activities, and a space for gathering socially. Currently an ice climbing day is being planned with a charitable component. No date has been set.

The annual dues are \$20, which covers administrative costs. Dues are expected to rise.

Part of the transition to the Rotaract Club had to do with the name. Tong said the YPN name was a barrier to some people, who weren't certain whether their work was defined as "professional." The Rotaract Club is more inclusive this way and offers many advantages the YPN couldn't offer.

"It does have ties with Rotary and the international programs they offer and I think with that coming it also has a lot leverage and lot of support we can use as well from Rotaract and Rotary. I think that will be key in terms of keeping and driving Rotaract. I think that you need to be able to call upon resources if you don't have that capability within your own group," she said.

The Rotaract Club was originally for people from 18 to 30, but that will soon be changing.

Tong said although this will officially change to include people over 30 in July, the local club is already accepting people older than 30 due to the demographic reality of the Highlands population where many are retired.

She welcomes people to learn from current members at the upcoming information night.

"I really want to encourage people to join because I think it's for a good cause and I think that there is a lot of opportunity there that we don't even know about yet. You won't know unless you're a member," Tong said.

Anderson, who is president of the committee and its youngest member, is enthusiastic about the club.

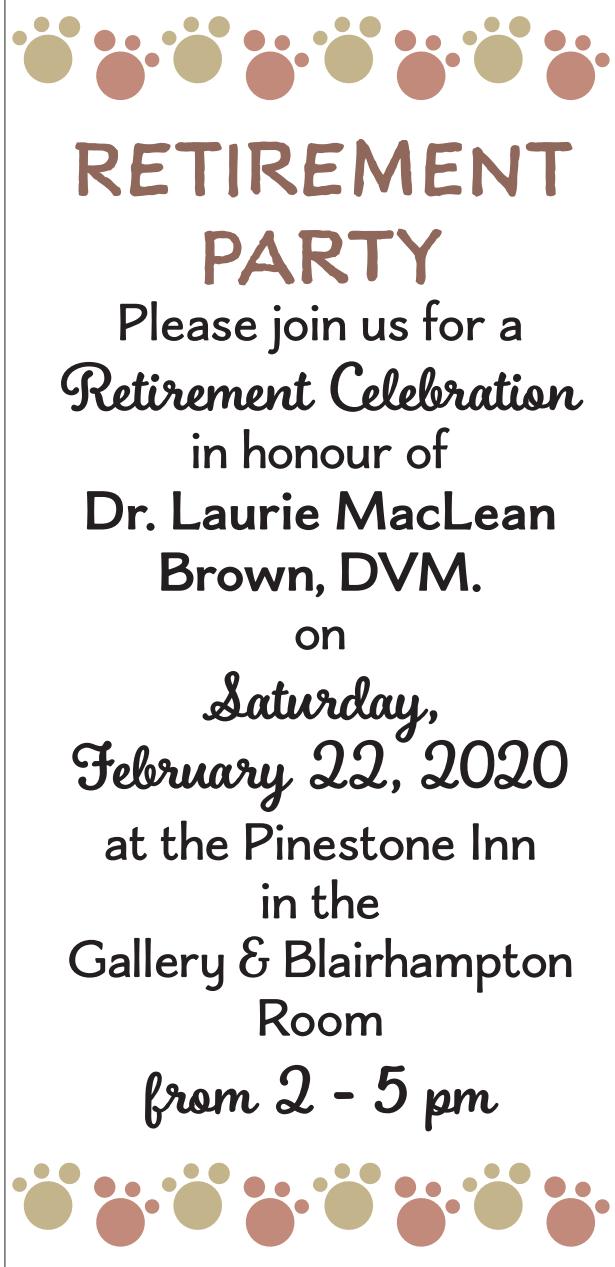
"I decided to join this club because it is an excellent platform to fundraise and address some needs of the community, meet new, like-minded people, participate in fun events, and get to know my community on a deeper level," the 22-year-old wrote in an email.

Anderson, who graduated from Haliburton Highlands

see ROTARACT page 13



Rotaract - Haliburton Highlands Club committee members Melissa Tong, Scott Walling and Rebecca Anderson welcome young people 18 and older who are interested in giving back and socializing. The service club for young people started a few weeks ago and has an upcoming free information night on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Haliburton campus of Fleming College, at 297 College Drive. For information about Rotaract, call Ted Brandon at 705-457-7923 or email haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com. / Photo submitted by Ted Brandon



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Rotaract to help young people connect

from page 10

Secondary School in 2015 and grew up in Highlands East, returned to the Highlands after she graduated from Carleton University finishing with a bachelor of social work in April 2019. She is working in Haliburton as an activity aide at the long-term care facility, Extendicare and volunteers for the SIRCH Repair Cafes and the local start-up kombucha home brew company, Luc's Brew.

She said this new addition to the Highlands social landscape is important because it encourages social connections while serving the community.

"This means that young people will feel more connected to their community, to each other, and feel great about giving their time to things that matter to them," she said. "The club also has a lot to offer young people. In addition to the value this club brings to our community, young people will also have the opportunity to help shape the community through community service, network with commu-

“

Young people will also have the opportunity to help shape the community through community service.

— Melissa Tong

nity members, attend guest speakers (and aid in the selection of speakers!), be part of a collective input into how to fundraise and what to do with raised money, add a respected organization to their resume and school applications, potentially travel, join leadership positions in the club, and participate in as much or as little as they want."

Her involvement with Rotaract is owed to Rotarian Ted Brandon, who talked to her about it the same day she made a presentation to the club about her trip to the World Youth Rally in Seoul, South Korea in September 2019.

"After hearing of the possibilities and what Rotary members do to give back to the community, I was extremely excited and knew I wanted to be a part of something like this," she said.

Her trip to South Korea was partly funded by TravelMaven and the Rotary Club of Haliburton.

Brandon said Rotaract fills a void for young people in the county.

"There is really nowhere for young people to gather to socialize and have fun. Rotaract is designed to be affordable and fit into their busy schedules," he wrote in an email.

Asked about her vision for the future, Anderson was focused on the present.

"Our goal right now is to establish a presence in our community to find members who are passionate and excited to serve their community and welcome them into our club."

For information about Rotaract, call Ted Brandon at 705-457-7923 or email haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com.

Police respond to allegations of neglected dogs

Police were called to a residence in Minden Hills on Jan. 22 to investigate potential animal cruelty.

According to information provided by the Haliburton Highlands OPP, the allegations were of "ill treatment and poor living conditions for 14 hunting dogs" on the property, which is on County Road 121.

"OPP investigators have engaged ani-

mal welfare inspectors appointed by provincial animal welfare services, who are currently working directly with the family to improve the health and well-being of animals at the residence," police said.

An OPP liaison team was called on to be the go-between with community members who are advocating on behalf of the animals.

The investigation is ongoing.

Haliburton is for lovers

Entrepreneur Heidi Hudspith says she first found the "Haliburton is for Lovers" image featuring two raccoons holding hands at a flea market about five years ago in Bancroft. The owner of Mixtape Vintage on Highland Street in Haliburton decided it was time to bring it back. Using the Centre for Making at Haliburton School of Art + Design, she applied the image onto blank second-hand T-shirts and sweatshirts using a heat press to adhere the print to the shirt/sweater. All shirts and sweaters are available at Mixtape Vintage. / Photo courtesy of Heidi Hudspith



Frost Festival

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday, February 15, 2020 - Head Lake Park

- Into the Blue Pizza - food stop (11 am - 3 pm)
- Snowshoe Games with YMCA Wanakita (11 am - 3 pm)
- S'mores over the Fire with the Haliburton Highlands Museum (11 am - 3 pm)
- Compass Early Learning and Care - sensory painting and activities (11 am - 3 pm)
- Skating on the outdoor rink beside the library (11 am - 3 pm)
- Horse Drawn Wagon rides sponsored by the Haliburton BIA (11 am - 3 pm)
- Make and take winter themed ornaments at the library (3 pm)
- Ride a pony with South Algonquin Trails sponsored by the Rotary Club of Haliburton (11 am - 1 pm)
- Broomball and Hot Chocolate with Youth Unlimited (11 am - 1 pm)
- Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge (1 pm until finished)
- Paddling Puppeteer - 2 shows at the library (11:30 am and 2 pm)
- Make your own puppet with the paddling puppeteer (11:30 am - 12:30 pm)
- Kids Dogsledding with Winterdance (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

www.frostfestival.ca

sports

Hawks dominate Titans at home in season-ender

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

With nothing to play for but pride, the Red Hawks senior Red Hawks boys basketball team showcased the skill and depth that has served them well all season.

The Hawks finished with a comfortable 56-42 win against the visiting Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School on Thursday, Feb. 6.

In light of the recent decision by the Trillium Lakelands District School Board to cancel extracurricular activities during school hours, the Hawks' season is now done.

Hawks coach Paul Longo was proud of his team and confirmed the finality of the season.

"This looks like our last game, barring a miracle," he said. "It's unfortunate we're the only board in Ontario that is not allowing the extracurriculars to continue on at this point. With that said, I'm proud of the boys and they showed a lot of heart in the second half. We were a little bit flat in the first half, but I really liked the way we played in the second half. We played Haliburton ball. Good pressing. Caused some turnovers. We were patient with the offence. Worked the ball. Good buckets. We hit some shots and opened up the lead to finish off," he said.

He said the difference in the second half for his team was the improved team commitment to defence, which limited the Titans' shooting efficiency, and how the team did grabbing rebounds and converting on the subsequent fast breaks for easy buckets.

The game was in jeopardy of not being held due to the board decision, but St. Thomas rescheduled their departure to accommodate, which Longo was grateful for.

"I'm really happy that St. Thomas was able to shift their schedule and come up and meet us for a 3:30 game. It's not ideal, but I'm really glad they were able to accommodate us and get up here," he said.

Despite the final score, the Titans put up a valiant fight through much of the game before the Hawks could pull away for good.

"I give St. Thomas a lot of credit. They improved a lot since the last time we played them. They really worked hard and gave us a good battle tonight so a good way for us to end if that is the end," he said.

“

I'll remember that we were a predominantly really young senior team and were able to compete with everybody and played hard ball and played very effectively.

— Coach Paul Longo

he said, referring to the 64-46 win on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Although the Hawks were up by as many as nine points at the halftime break 22-13, the Titans narrowed the deficit to one with a few minutes left in the third.

Midway through the fourth quarter, the Hawks were still unable to lose the tenacious Titans.

The game was tied 35-35. With a combination of strong execution and their increased pace of play, the Hawks showed which team was superior, led by the guard play of Brian Kim, who finished with 11 in the fourth and 24 for the game to lead all players. The Hawks closed out the game with a 21 to 3 run and gave the home fans a lot to cheer for in what was likely the last game of the 2019-2020 season.

There are six graduating players, but 11 first year seniors are expected back.

Longo said he made a point of playing all his players such as Nigel Smith, who had been sidelined by a hamstring injury since October.

The youthful characteristic of the team is something that Longo will remember and makes him optimistic for next season.

"I'll remember that we were a predominantly really young senior team and were able to compete with everybody and played hard ball and played very effectively. It really bodes well for next year and hopefully we have a contract settlement and everything will be back to normal and we'll be playing some hard ball," he said.

The team finished with a 4-3 record, according to COSSA results.

Due to the changing nature of this semester's sports season, details regarding upcoming games may change. Information is up to date as of Monday, Feb. 10.



Red Hawks guard Camden Marra attempts a shot during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Thursday Feb. 6 in Haliburton. The Hawks beat the visiting St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Titans 56-42./DARREN LUM Staff

Bottom left, Red Hawks guard Brian Kim drives to the net.



Red Hawks player Nigel Smith battles for a loose ball.

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Junior Red Hawks player Ezra Hill passes during Kawartha High School League action.

Junior Red Hawks player Colin Glecoff gets off a pass against the St. Thomas Titans.



Junior Red Hawks player Jackson Wilson evades the block on a drive to the net against the St. Thomas Titans during Kawartha High School League action on Thursday, Feb. 6 in Haliburton. The Hawks won 47-27. Wilson led all players with 15 points./DARREN LUM Staff

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sports

Hawks lose, but will play again

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It was a victory for the Red Hawks hockey team to have played in light of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board's decision to cancel extracurriculars during school hours.

Coach Jason Morissette said the team was happy about getting to play despite the uncertainty of the upcoming playoffs.

"We're fortunate that our home games are scheduled at 4 p.m. Historically they've been at 4 p.m. because we do intentionally try to keep our players in school and focused on their academics as long as we can to the day," he said.

The Hawks felt some disappointment and frustration during the 5-2 loss against visiting Hurricanes of Holy Cross.

Morissette said the loss was attributed to poor execution in the defensive end and taking untimely penalties. Some of the poor play was attributed to the cancellation of the past two games, he said.

"We were on a pretty good roll there. We had been still practising, but because we're not getting those games in that really doesn't get us ready for this game. I think those two games would have helped us prepare for this," he said.

The loss of reps from those games also affected the powerplay and hurt the team's momentum. Morissette said the team also lost out on four potential points, which he believes could prove to be a problem for playoff seeding, crucial



A Holy Cross player stays with Red Hawks player Braeden Robinson, who dumps the puck deep into the offensive zone during Kawartha High School Hockey League action on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Although Robinson scored two to lead the Hawks, the home team lost 5-2 in a fast-paced game. /DARREN LUM Staff

to having a chance to play in this year's playoffs.

The team had erased a two-goal deficit, down 2-0 when Braeden Robinson scored the equalizer with his second of the game

at the start of the second period.

Unfortunately, the Hawks surrendered two quick goals in the second, separated by seconds and couldn't recover. Veteran goalie Carson Sisson left the ice following

the two goals with an injury, said Morissette. As a result, rookie goalie Darian Maddock took the opportunity to shine, playing well.

Just before Sisson's departure, he had looked upset with an official after the Hurricanes' third goal and then left the ice on the fourth Hurricanes goal scored seconds later.

The team is looking to their next home game. A victory against the St. Peter Catholic Secondary School Saints on Feb. 19 at 4 p.m. will be a great way to end the regular season.

There is concern for the playoffs, Morissette said.

"We made the playoffs. It's just, if we're not in the top three for the playoffs we won't be able to go to the playoffs. We won't have home ice," he said.

Other schools have their games during school hours, he said, which would not be possible for the Hawks to come and compete.

If they can finish in the top three they will play in a one-game, winner-take-all Kawartha Championship qualifier, which is a change to accommodate TLDSB secondary schools.

If not, the Hawks will relish a win over the perennial hockey power, Saints.

It's all about being positive.

"Moving forward you got to stay optimistic," Morissette said.

"Got to be hopeful ... and I'm glad that they get to play. I'm glad that they get the opportunity to play another game," he said.

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Lemon Bucket Orkestra's Stephania Woloshyn dances.



Lemon Bucket Orkestra's Ian Tulloch on the sousaphone.



Dance, dance, dance

Above, Lemon Bucket Orkestra performs with the dancing crowd on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. The Toronto-based band got the audience hopping with their folk-punk dance party. The event was hosted by Dance Happens Here Haliburton, or DH3, and included a free dance lesson earlier in the evening. /DARREN LUM Staff

Left, Lemon Bucket Orkestra's drummer Os Kar performs.

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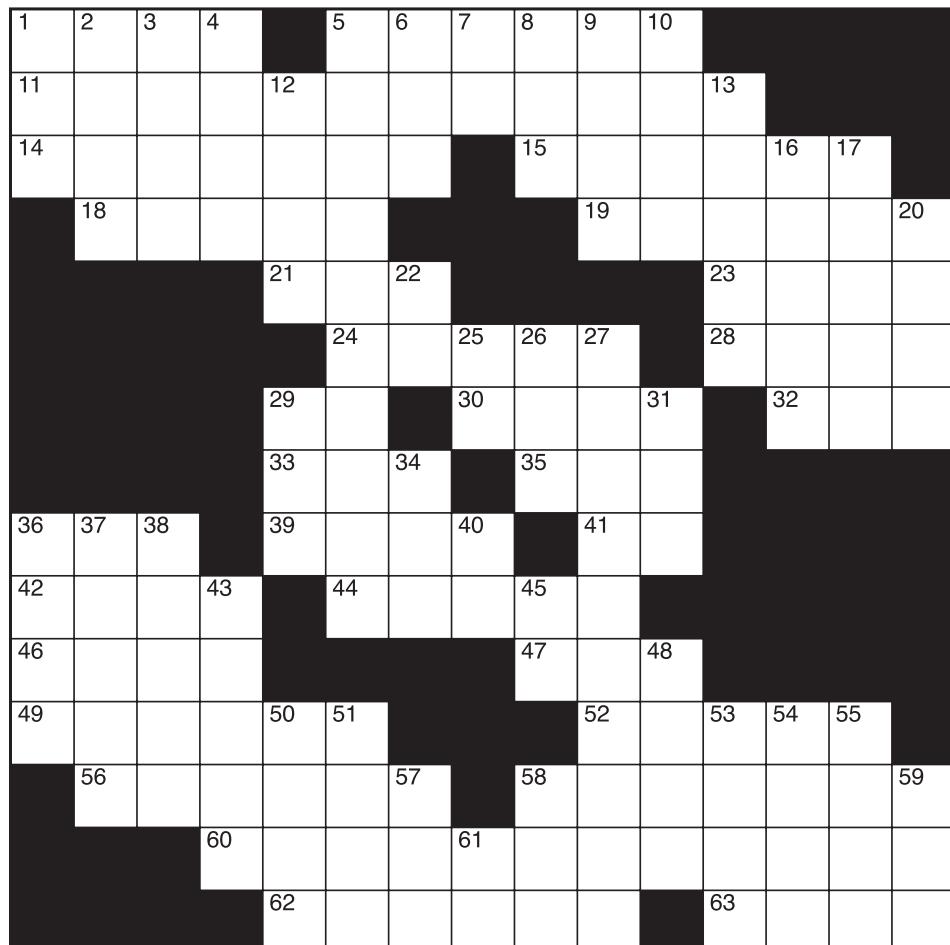
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CLUES ACROSS

- Unruly groups
- Colorful flowers
- December 25
- Final stages of insects' development
- Breadmakers
- Spanish man
- In the middle
- Bill
- Noted editor Alexander
- Swollen
- Paddles
- Cirrus
- Seeped into
- Skeletal muscle
- Japanese traditional drama
- Licensed practical nurse
- Sibu Airport
- Rebuff
- Sun God
- Astringent
- Feeling of humiliation
- A device attached to a workbench
- Wood sorrel
- Among
- Horizontal passages

CLUES DOWN

- One-time phone company
- Units of electrical resistance
- Hillside
- Omen
- Repetitions
- Royal Mail Ship
- Farm state
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Dutch cheese
- Japanese alcoholic beverage
- Black powdery substance
- Tokyo's former name
- Monetary unit
- Bones
- To avoid the risk of
- Dry goods unit of volume (abbr.)
- Megabyte
- Father of Alexander the Great
- Utter repeatedly
- Linked together
- Literary effect
- Held onto
- We all have it
- Expression of bafflement
- Tributary of the Danube
- Flies over sporting events
- Chinese city
- College degree
- Dispenser of first aid
- Momentum (slang)
- Red Sea port
- Sloven
- Turner, rock singer
- Asian nation (alt. sp.)
- Manson victim
- Go forward
- Primary Care Trust
- Simpson trial judge
- Sun up in New York
- Exclamation of surprise

Answers on page 22



Hitching up funding

Community Living's Tim Tofflemire, left, and executive director Teresa Jordan accept a \$1,800 cheque for the Community Living Job Quest program from the Rotary Club of Haliburton's president Brian Nash, who was with members Ted Brandon, Jim Joseph, David Zilstra, Andy Glecoff and Kevin DesRoches. The money will help with the purchase of a new utility trailer, which replaces the worn out trailer purchased by the club 10 years ago. The Job Quest program helps people living with a disability or other impairment to not just find, but also keep a good job while assisting employers to find, train and keep reliable and skilled workers./DARREN LUM Staff



Municipality of Dysart et al

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NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: February 25, 2020
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:
The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Blackborow and Rogers
Location: 1056 Chicory Drive – Koshlong Lake
Part of Original Road Allowance For Chicory Drive, Between The Townships of Dysart and Glamorgan in Front of Lot 10, geographic Township of Dysart defined as Part 1, on a preliminary plan of survey, prepared by Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd. dated June 3, 2019.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular office hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 11th day of February, 2020.

Jeff Iles,
Director of Planning and Land Information

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UPCOMING Community Events

Want to get your event in Community
Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton & District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge

An event at the Haliburton Frost Festival
When: Saturday, Feb. 15
Registration at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Event starts at 1 p.m.
Pledge forms available at Cranberry Cottage, Haliburton Foodland, West Guilford Shopping Centre, Todd's Independent or online at haliburtonlions.com.
Prizes awarded to the top individual pledge dollars and top team pledge dollars and also the best costumes. All proceeds to the SickKids' Garron Family Cancer Centre or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Bird Box Building

Bird Box Building
When: Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Fish Hatchery
Join Norm Rondeau to construct bird boxes suitable for field birds such as bluebirds, chickadees, swallows and wrens. Kits will be provided. Admission by donation. You can register at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or by phone at 705-457-3700

Haliburton Writers and Editors Network

Haliburton Writers and Editors Network
When: Feb. 20, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Library, Rotary room 136 Bobcaygeon Rd.
Minden
HHWEN/Haliburton Writer's and Editor's Network - Monthly meeting third Thursday of every month. No charge. See coming events at www.haliburtonwriters.ca. Call K. at 705-286-6635

SIRCH: Social Enterprise, Family Roots and Other Innovative Solutions for Haliburton County

County
Speaker: Donna Gagnon
Hosted by The Canadian Federation Of University Women
Haliburton Highlands
When: Thursday, Feb. 20, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Malcolm MacLean Radio Hall at Canoe FM,
739 Mountain St, Haliburton (Park at the arena)
Cost: Free. All women who are considering becoming a
CFUW member are welcome to join us. More Information:
www.cfuwhh.ca

Stockdale Central in the Clubroom

Stockdale Central in the Clubroom
When: Saturday, February 22, 3 to 6 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom
\$5 cover charge for non-members, 50/50 draw at 6 p.m.

National Cupcake Day

National Cupcake Day
When: Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Animal Hospital
Minden Animal Hospital is once again baking scrumptious cupcakes to benefit Muskoka OSPCA Bracebridge. Preorders are welcome until Feb 21. Don't have a sweet tooth? Donations can be made by visiting NationalCupcakeDay.ca, clicking "donate," and searching: "MAH Fur Pets."

Food Handler Course

Food Handler Course
When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 310) in Haliburton.

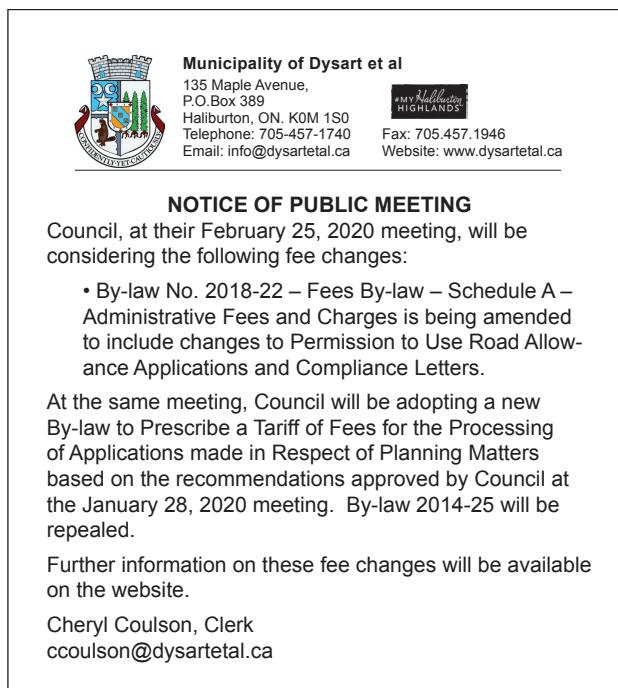
This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Pre-registration is required. Cost \$40/person. To register, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

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**Independent
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Haliburton Curling Club was filled with fun for the Todd's Independent Mixed Invitational Bonspiel held from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. Twenty-four teams and 96 curlers from Oshawa, York Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Highland London, Brampton, St. George's, Elora, West Northumberland, Chelsey Quebec and Haliburton participated. /SIEF TIEFFIN Staff



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
 - 1-4: MOB
 - 5: B
 - 6-10: IRISES
 - 11-15: CHRISTMAS
 - 16-20: DAY
 - 21-25: MAGOES
 - 26-30: BAKER
 - 31-35: SENSOR
 - 36-40: MEDIAL
 - 41-45: TAB
 - 46-50: DYCE
 - 51-55: TUMID
 - 56-60: OARS
 - 61-65: CIBLED
 - 66-70: LAT
 - 71-75: NOH
 - 76-80: LPN
 - 81-85: SNUB
 - 86-90: RAY
 - 91-95: ALUM
 - 96-100: SHAME
 - 101-105: VISUAL
 - 106-110: OCALA
 - 111-115: AMIDES
 - 116-120: STADITS
 - 121-125: PHILIP
 - 126-130: ITERATE
 - 131-135: CONCATE
 - 136-140: NATED
 - 141-145: PRACTHOS
 - 146-150: KEEPER
- Down:
 - 1-5: OBSESSED
 - 6-10: HISTORIAN
 - 11-15: SILENT
 - 16-20: BAKERS
 - 21-25: SENATOR
 - 26-30: MEDICAL
 - 31-35: TABULAR
 - 36-40: DYING
 - 41-45: TUMID
 - 46-50: OARS
 - 51-55: CIBLED
 - 56-60: LATENT
 - 61-65: NOHOO
 - 66-70: LPN
 - 71-75: SNUBBED
 - 76-80: RAYED
 - 81-85: ALUMINUM
 - 86-90: SHAMEFUL
 - 91-95: VISUALS
 - 96-100: OCALAS
 - 101-105: AMIDES
 - 106-110: STADITS
 - 111-115: PHILIPPE
 - 116-120: ITERATES
 - 121-125: CONCATED
 - 126-130: NATED
 - 131-135: PRACTHOS
 - 136-140: KEEPER

Haliburton Echo

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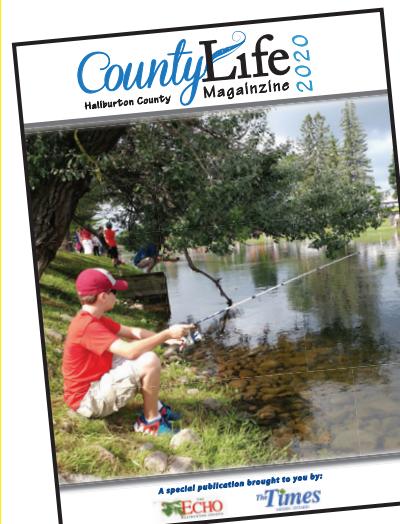
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We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a Non-Profit Community Service Directory. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Echo

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McNeil Merreit Sr
*In loving memory of my husband
who passed away Feb. 13, 1998*

*"Beautiful memories are
wonderful things,
They last until
the longest day,
They never wear out,
and never get lost,
And can never be
given away.
But to me who loved him
and lost him,
My memories will always
last."*

Remembered by
your wife Mary McNeil

In Memory of
Kevin Bunn
July 13, 1975 - Feb. 15, 2002

Kevin, thinking of how much you mean to those who live you've touched and feeling thankful for the love you've given and shared so much.

*Love Always
Mom, Dad & Family*

In Memory of a dear dad
Merreit McNeil Sr.
Who passed away Feb. 13, 1998

"Dear Dad, you are not forgotten though on earth you are no more
Still in memory you are with us
As you always were before
Dad is such a special word
A word that brings to mind
A big warm smile, a helping hand
A way of being kind
Devotion to the family
A word of patience too
Dad is such a special word
Because it stands for you."
Always remembered,
loved and missed
each day and year.

Your Daughter
Wanda-Lee McNeil



650 OBITUARIES

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Community
FUNERAL HOME

William "Bill" Timms
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Promoted to Glory at Haliburton Hospital surrounded by his family and friends on Wednesday evening, February 5, 2020 in his 89th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Elva Matthews for over 24 years. Loving father of Bill Jr. (Inga), Kelley (Ben), Shannon, Shawna, Marie, Brenda and Gail (Bill). Also lovingly remembered by his many grandchildren, great grandchildren and his great great grandson Mason. Bill was a Veteran of the Korean Conflict and was a Deacon of the West Guilford Baptist Church for many years. He enjoyed woodworking, meeting people and was instrumental in starting a Sunday morning Church Service at Extendicare in Haliburton. He was also very involved in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129, Haliburton for many years.

Visitation, Celebration Of Life & Reception
Friends may call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Tuesday morning, February 11, 2020 for a Legion Service at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). A Celebration of Bill's life will follow. Reception to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 Haliburton 719 Mountain St. Haliburton, Ontario. As expressions of sympathy, donations to West Guilford Baptist Church or the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 would be appreciated by the family.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Memory Of
Walter Samuel (Sam) French
21 Feb 1931 – 31 Jan 2020



The family of Sam French regret to announce that Sam slipped away at 10:02 pm on Friday Jan 31, 2020, peacefully and in his sleep. Sam is predeceased by his parents Walter Serrick French and Minnie Mugford of Conception Bay, NL. He is survived by his spouse of 41 years, Margaret Casavechia (Manotick), brother Clarence (Toronto), son's Murray (Haliburton) and Barry (Campbell River), daughter Linda (Toronto), stepson, Gary Casavechia (Dartmouth), step-daughter Shannon Noseworthy (Manotick), eleven grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren. Sam will be laid to rest in Christ Church Cemetery, Dartmouth, NS.

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Ministry opens its cost-saving kit...pg 3

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Several teams advance to next
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FEATURE**Working for the future**

Jeff Hancock can have the best of
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Bark Lake to vary programs; will start hiring soon

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The Belleville businessman who bought the former Bark Lake Leadership Centre has revamped his plans for the facility and intends to have it up and running July 1.

When the province's real estate arm accepted his offer to buy Bark Lake in the fall, Peter Zuuring proposed to turn the 545-acre Ironton leadership centre into a wilderness experience camp for high school kids.

Now Zuuring, who runs a successful computer software company, says he will also offer courses to foreign students studying English as a second language.

As well, he says he is working with Sheridan and Seneca Colleges to design a "Master's program" in multi-media that will be offered at the site.

And for eight months of the year, he will rent out the Oak Centre for businesses to hold their corporate retreats.

"For the first year, we're going to have very specific packages so we can test them," Zuuring said Friday while in Haliburton to look over the site. "I think it's going to take two or three years to fine-tune the thing."

Zuuring takes possession of Bark Lake in April. Between then and the beginning of July, he plans to spend about \$1.3-million getting in shape for opening day.

It will take an additional \$2.5-million to turn Bark Lodge into a multi-media centre, complete with 75 computer work stations, a sound studio, movie studio and other high tech equipment.

Zuuring has already hired four staff members to help organize the site and plans to employ between 55 and 65 people during the first year of business.

During the centre's first phase

See CAMP page 6



THE BEST OF BOTH SEASONS: Sunday's sunshine reminded everyone that the warmer days of spring will soon be upon us, but Kerry Heming and her mother, Ginny, took advantage of all the snow to enjoy the activities at Camp Wanakita's Winter Fun Day.

Task force fells Goliath board

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

A proposal to merge Haliburton's school board with three others, creating a monster-board stretching from Lake Ontario to Algonquin Park, has been scrapped by a provincial task force.

Instead, the Ontario School Board Reduction Task Force recommends in its final report that only the boards of Haliburton and Victoria County amalgamate.

The union would create a school system with 14,238 students — far smaller than the 57,000-student behemoth originally recommended in September by the task force, headed by former Liberal MPP John Sweeney.

But local school board representatives remain wary of any merger plan unless it can be proven to cut costs without damaging the quality of education.

"The message we sent Mr. Sweeney previously will stay the same," said board director Brad Saunders. "If he can demonstrate that by amalgamating the board he can save money and maintain or expand the quality of education offered to the stu-

dents, then we'd be negligent not to go forward with amalgamation."

"If we can save money, we have an obligation to the taxpayers to do that. If we can improve the quality of education, then we have an obligation to the students to do that."

Board chairwoman Wendy Ladurantaye agreed with Saunders' sentiments.

"I'm not opposed to the proposal, if it can save us some costs, if it can improve the quality of education and keep some

kind of (trustee) representation there," she said.

But until the two boards are able to take a close look at what merging may mean to them from a financial and educational viewpoint, Ladurantaye said she didn't want to cast a vote for or against the plan.

"If property taxes were to go up by 10 per cent — I'm not saying they will because we haven't had a chance to look at that yet — but if they were going to, I would say it's probably not a good idea," she said.

Business administrator Jim Bradley has estimated the task force's first amalgamation plan — which would have seen the boards of Haliburton, Victoria, Peterborough and Northumberland-Clarington merge into one — would have driven property taxes up by between 22 and 35 per cent for local ratepayers.

One of the key proposals in the Sweeney task force's final report is a recommendation that

See BOARD page 6

OPP to stay put in Minden – for now

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

A rumor that the Ontario Provincial Police plans to vacate its detachment office in Minden at the end of the month and disperse its officers among the county's sub-offices is unfounded, says Staff Sergeant Andy Miller.

In fact, the OPP has recently signed a five-year lease to continue occupying its Hwy. 35 office in Minden after its present lease expires at the end of March, he said.

However, the lease contains a "three-month escape clause," enabling the OPP to vacate the building without penalty by giving the landlord three months' notice.

The clause was written into the lease because of the OPP's ongoing restructuring plans, said Staff Sgt. Miller.

He said the force intends to decide "within the next couple of months" whether to continue operating out of its Minden detachment office or to divide its staff among its sub-offices. The OPP has sub-offices in

Minden, Haliburton, Wilberforce and Gooderham.

Asked on Friday whether the OPP plans to abandon its Minden detachment at the end of the month, Staff Sgt. Miller said, "I haven't been told that ... I know there's a lot of rumors out there, but I haven't heard anything about that."

Miller is now the staff sergeant for both the Minden and Coboconk detachment. Former Minden staff sergeant Dennis Edlington has accepted another job with the OPP's head office in Orillia.

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